

Minutes
State Board of Social Services
December 13, 2001

Attending
Phillip Jones
Carol Coryell
Debra Andrews
Rufus Adkins
Jean Cobb
Shirley Rogers
Holly Korte

Absent
Shelley Sabo
Robert Spadaccini

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Phillip Jones. Welcome and introductions were provided by Ray Goodwin, Richard Pyle, and Sarah Snead. The Board was invited to a reception hosted by the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Department of Social Services.

On behalf of Board members, Chairman Jones presented an Award of Appreciation to Anne Chesney, Assistant Attorney General, for her dedication and hard work. Ms. Chesney has accepted a position in private industry.

Presentations/Action Items

Deviation Policy for Hanover County

As requested by the Board, further information on the Plan was provided. Donna Douglas, Director of Hanover DSS provided the reasons for deviating to the County policy, the effects the deviation would have on leave and the potential adverse impacts to employees.

A transition plan for the implementation of county leave policies was also presented. Following much discussion, Mr. Jones asked that the county attorney provide its representative, Richard Johnson with a letter of authority per their discussion with Ms. Chesney regarding accrued benefits/vested rights. (copy to be provided to Board.) Mr. Jones advised if a copy of the letter is not received, this issue would come before the Board in the future.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Adkins) and seconded (Ms. Rogers) moved to allow the Hanover Dept. of Social Services to continue with the deviation plan that was submitted and approved by the Board in October 2001. Motion carried with all in favor.

VA Dept of Social Services Basic State Classification Plan

The Board was requested to approve three new classifications and accompanying salary ranges. It was further explained that incorporating these classifications does not mandate their use or indicate that additional state funding will be provided to allocate positions to local departments of social services. Should local agencies choose to request establishment of one of these positions, funding must be within their current allocation or from local only funding.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Coryell) and seconded (Ms. Rogers) moved to approve the three new classifications and accompanying salary ranges, noting that incorporating them does not mandate use or provide additional funding. Motion carried with all in favor.

Legislative Review/Regulation Review

Richard Martin reviewed three legislative proposals of 2002 and asked for Board approval. Proposals were to require the Division of Child Support Enforcement to use high-volume administrative enforcement, to the same extent as used for intrastate cases, in response to a request made by another state to enforce child support orders and to promptly report the results of such enforcement procedures to the requesting state; require the establishment and enforcement of health care coverage provisions in all child support orders, and mandate use of the National Medical Support Notice; and require court review of permanent foster care cases. This change will satisfy federal procedural requirements under the Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Coryell) and seconded (Ms. Andrews) moved to approve the three proposals as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Regulation Update

Mr. Martin advised there are 91 regulations in place. Of this amount, 60 are in the regulatory process stage; 31 are in the repeal process (28 are old AFDC); 18 are being amended; and 12 in the periodic review stage. He mentioned 2 additional regulations that will vanish after December 19. He advised there are 8 new regulations for a total of 99.

Chairman Jones requested information on the Child Fatality Protocol regulation. Mr. Martin advised this regulation is on track and should be presented at the January or February 2002 meeting.

22 VAC 40-71-10

Standards and Regulations for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities

Mr. Martin advised this action would amend the regulation providing for the licensure of assisted facilities. The amendments implement the provisions of Chapters 808 and 845 of the 2000 Acts of Assembly and other legislative mandates. They are permanent replacements for emergency regulations approved by the State Board on April 19, 2001.

Discussion:

Ms. Korte advised she had spoken with Ms. Sabo on this issue and Ms. Sabo was in support of approval.

Ms. Coryell was concerned over the cost impact.

Mr. Jones verified this regulation was the same as the emergency regulation with no substantive changes. Mr. Martin agreed.

Ms. Chesney advised this vote was to publish the regulation and open it up for public comment only.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Korte) and seconded (Ms. Rogers) moved to approve the proposed regulatory package as presented for publication in the Virginia Register and approve the fiscal impact analysis for distribution to local boards of social services. Motion carried with all in favor.

Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program

As requested by the Board, a report on the evaluation of the Scholarship Program was provided.

Based on the report, Mr. Adkins advised not all the funds are being spent. He further requested that this money be targeted to train people in southwest Virginia.

Ms. Sheil advised the department is making a concerted effort to reach southwest and the Coalfield areas. Future meetings have been planned. Mr. Adkins will be provided with the dates should he wish to attend. Ms. Rogers also asked to be included.

22 VAC 40-220-10

Agency Placement Adoptions-Guiding Principles

This action will complete the period review. The department recommends that the regulation be repealed because it conflicts with federal law.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Coryell) and seconded (Ms. Rogers) moved to approve the periodic review report for submission to the Department of Planning and Budget and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and to approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to repeal for publication in the Virginia Register. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-400-10

Funding Limitations for the Refugee Resettlement Program

This action will complete the periodic review. The department recommends that this regulation be retained without change.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Adkins) and seconded (Ms. Andrews) moved to approve the periodic review report for submission to the Department of Planning and Budget and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Motion carried with all in favor.

Annual Child Fatality Report

Kathleen Newbanks, Director of Service Programs provided members with a report of child fatalities with founded dispositions for fiscal year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. She advised Virginia is reviewing statistics in other states and looking at ways of reducing these fatalities. Kentucky was mentioned specifically.

Mr. Jones advised of a protocol that was submitted to be included in our regulation, but was being held in the Office of the Secretary. Ms. Newbanks advised public awareness campaigns need to be continued and further education is needed. She agreed that the death of a child is one death to many.

Electronic Benefits Transfer Project

Jean Sheil, Deputy Commissioner of Program Operations provided a status report to members. She advised this project had been contracted with Citicorp, was on time and on budget.

Ms. Andrews confirmed clients are allowed a limited monthly allotment. Ms. Sheil advised it is up to the client to keep track of their point of sales as not to overspend their allotment. Ms. Sheil further advised the client will receive a receipt showing their balance and also have been provided with a customer service phone number of inquiries.

Mr. Adkins confirmed that food stamp cases were on the rise since the September 11 incident. He suggested the need for closely monitoring this system for possible fraud. Ms. Sheil advised Information Systems is responsible for monitoring and compliance.

Public Comment

Evelyn Knox presented a resolution to the Board requesting recognizing the month of February as Eligibility Worker Appreciation Month.

Whereas, Virginia's landmark welfare reform legislation has significantly impacted the services provided by local eligibility workers, calling upon them to creatively promote individual self-sufficiency and personal responsibility; and

Whereas, Virginia continues to experience unprecedented implementation of complex policies and procedures relating to Welfare Reform in all major benefit programs; and

Whereas, Virginia's 2,227 eligibility workers have been at the forefront of public efforts to meet that need, steadily maintaining a high rate of application processing to ensure that those qualified for social services receive them; and

Whereas, 69,032 TANF recipients, 3312,378 Food Stamp recipients, and 480,668 Medicaid recipients are served monthly through Temporary Assistance Programs, depending on the dedication and commitment of eligibility workers who handle their cases in an accurate and timely manner; and

Whereas, eligibility workers are continually faced with reconciling an environment of rapidly changing policies, procedures, and technological advances with quality control requirements.

Now, Therefore be it resolved, the State Board of Social Services does hereby commend all eligibility workers across the Commonwealth of Virginia for a job well done and recognized the month of February, 2002, as Eligibility Worker Appreciation Month, calling upon Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service and contributions on this 13th day of December, 2001.

Phillip Jones
Chairman

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Rogers) and seconded (Ms. Korte) moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Chairman Jones recognizing February 2002 as Eligibility Worker Appreciation Month. Motion carried with all in favor.

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Bill Jones from Norfolk, Va spoke to the Board on administration of the Assisted Living Regulations mentioning several areas of concern. He advised serious cognitizant impairment as defined is confusing. He stated we should not be discriminatory on who is providing services, and there was a need to look into the definition of safe secure environment. He will provide further comment once the regulation is posted in the Virginia Register and is opened up to the public.

Introduction of Senior Staff

Jean Sheil,Carolynne Stevens, David Mitchell, Marcella Williams, Kathleen Newbanks, and Mary Jo Thomas were introduced to the members.

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Andrews) and seconded (Ms. Rogers) moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried with all in favor.

Future Meeting Schedule

January 31-Central Office (Jan. 30 VLSSE Reception)
February 20 & 21-Central Office

Subcommittee Reports

CPS OOF- Ms. Korte advised the next meeting would be held in Charlottesville in April.

New Business

Ray Goodwin provided the members with a copy of the new Department Mission Statement and Logo. There was much discussion from Mr. Adkins whether the department could adopt a change without Board approval. Ms. Rengnerth was requested to review past minutes and advise if the Board voted on the original statement.

Board Comments

Members thanked Sarah Snead and staff for a wonderful reception.

Ms. Chesney thanked the Board for the Award of Appreciation and stated she would miss them.

Chairman Jones read a letter from Speaker Wilkins appointing past member Brian Campbell to the special task force of the Commission on Educational Accountability to study the Educational Needs of the 21st Century. Mr. Jones and members asked that a congratulatory letter be sent to Mr. Campbell.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by Pat Rengnerth

Board approval January 31, 2001.

